

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/688,343

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

Applicant(s)

YAMADA ET AL.

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment on 11/04/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 October 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Tran

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-18 are allowed.

Claims 1, 7, 13, 16 are independent claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 1, the present invention from the application discloses an image data outputting apparatus comprises “when said control unit receives a re-output instruction, after a certain image data stored in said memory is initially output, to cause said output unit to output said certain image data again, said control unit operates in a first mode, before a predetermined time passes from output of said certain image data, to cause said output unit to output said certain image data again in response to reception of said re-output instruction, and said-control-unit operates in a second mode, after said predetermined time passes from output of said certain image data, to cause said output unit to output said certain image data again on condition that a password is entered in said input unit that is stored in said password store unit and corresponds to said certain image data”.

As to claim 7, the present invention from the application discloses an image data outputting apparatus comprising: “when said control unit receives a re-output instruction, after a certain image data stored in said memory is initially output, to cause said output unit to output said certain image data again, said control unit operates in a first mode, when said operator detection unit keeps detecting presence of an operator after output of said certain image data, to cause said output unit to output said certain image data again in response to reception of said re-

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output instruction, and said control unit operates in a second mode, when said operator detection unit detects absence of an operator after output of said certain image data, to cause said output unit to output said certain image data again on condition that a password is entered in said input unit that is stored in said password store unit and corresponds to said certain image data”.

As to claims 13 and 16, the present invention from the application discloses methods that are similar with the limitations from claims 1 and 7, respectively.

The closest prior art such as Harada (U.S. Patent No. 5,726,770), which is cited from Information Disclosure Statements, discloses the image-forming unit has an electric component that forms an image on the image-bearing member on the basis of the image data and a personal identification code. Furthermore, the image-forming apparatus has a control unit for controlling the image-forming unit so as to form an image on the basis of the image data at a predetermined timing which an operator requests.

The above prior art, including an updated electronic text search, fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations of claims 1, 7 and 13, 16 obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

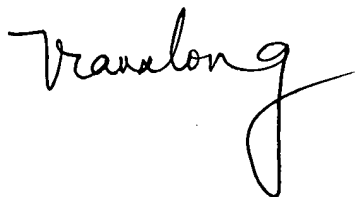
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Contact information

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7442 or E-mail address is douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Douglas Q. Tran

Apr. 14, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tran Douglas Q.", with a stylized flourish at the end.